

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

(C) a drying step of moving the resulting cake into a compound recovery zone having a pressure lower than the pressure in the separation device ~~and a temperature lower than the temperature in the separation device~~, thereby evaporating the cake-attached liquid by internal energy released by the movement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Incidentally, the steps of from the reactor until the separation device through the intermediate processing tank to be used as the need arises may include an additional unit operation such as dilution and heating so far as they meet the requirements that the pressure be kept at atmospheric the pressure higher than pressure ~~or higher~~ and that the temperature be kept at the boiling point at atmospheric pressure of the reaction medium or higher.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is preferable that the temperature (TB2) of the cake obtained in the separation device 3 immediately before discharge is higher than the boiling (Bp2) at atmospheric pressure of the cake-attached liquid immediately before discharging from the separation device 3. For example, in the case where a slurry is transferred into the separation ~~step~~ device 3 having a high pressure through the line 13, it is possible to realize the transfer by rising the pressure by a pump or the like before entering the separation ~~step~~ device 3. The pressure range of the separation ~~step~~ device 3 is preferably from 0.11 MPa to 22 MPa, more

preferably from 0.21 MPa to 12 MPa, and especially preferably from 0.31 MPa to 7 MPa.

The temperature range of the cake immediately before the discharge is from 50 °C to 350 °C, preferably from 100 °C to 300 °C, and more preferably from 130 °C to 250 °C. A difference (TB2 – Bp2) between the boiling point at atmospheric pressure of the cake-attached liquid immediately before discharging from the separation step device 3 and the temperature of the cake to be discharged from the separation step device 3 is preferably in the range of from 5 °C to 200 °C, more preferably from 10 °C to 150 °C, and especially preferably from 15 °C to 100 °C.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The desired compound discharged into the powder tank 6 is recovered through a line 15. When the liquid content exceeds the tolerable range as a product, it is necessary to pass it through a drying machine. In such case, it is preferable to introduce a dry gas into the intermediate ~~tank~~ chamber 16 or powder tank 6 to dry the compound, without carrying out a heat drying operation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Incidentally, the relative relationship between the temperature and the pressure in the foregoing reaction step (A), intermediate processing step (D) and separation step (B) is not limited, except for the matter that each of the steps keeps a temperature higher than the boiling point at atmospheric pressure of each liquid or higher and that each of the steps keeps a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure. For example, with respect to the temperature, any of the case of {[temperature of the reaction step (hereinafter referred to as “TA”)] >

[temperature of the intermediate processing step (hereinafter referred to as "TD")] > [temperature of the separation step (hereinafter referred to as "TB")]], the case of ($TA > TD < TB$), and the case of ($TA < TD < TB$) may adapt to the invention. Also, in the relationship between the reaction step and the separation step, any of ($TA < TB$) and ($TA > TB$) may also adapt to the invention. With respect to the pressure, exactly the same is applicable, and any of the case of {[pressure in the reaction step (hereinafter referred to as "PA")] > [pressure in the intermediate processing step (hereinafter referred to as "PD")] > [pressure in the separation step (hereinafter referred to as "PB")]], the case of ($PA > PD < PB$), the case of ($PA < PD < PB$), the case of ($PA < PB$), and the case of ($PA > PB$) may adapt to the invention. In addition, the relationship between the temperature and the pressure is not always required to work together. For example, by raising the pressure in the intermediate processing step and passing the resulting reaction product through a condenser, the temperature becomes ($PA > PB$) ($TA > TB$), and the pressure becomes ($PA < PB$).

Please amend the Abstract at page 54 to read as follows:

ABSTRACT

An object of the invention is to provide a process of producing a compound for forming a slurry under pressure and/or heating, which is quite economical on an industrial scale such that a drying machine is not necessary and that it is possible to reduce energy to be used for drying.

Specifically, the invention is concerned with a process of producing a compound, which includes (A) a reaction step of undergoing reaction in a reactor under a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure and at a boiling point at atmospheric pressure of a reaction medium or higher, to form a compound; (B) a separation step of separating a fixed amount or more of the reaction medium from a slurry containing the compound and the reaction medium under a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure and at a temperature of a boiling

point at atmospheric pressure of the reaction medium or higher in a separation device, to obtain a cake having a weight ratio of a cake-attached liquid of not more than 50 % based on the solids content; and (C) a drying step of moving the resulting cake into a compound recovery zone having a pressure lower than the pressure in the separation device ~~and a temperature lower than the temperature in the separation device~~, thereby evaporating the cake-attached liquid by internal energy released by the movement.